MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 SEPTEMBER 1982

Israel

Israeli Government officials rejected the message sent by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Prime Minister Menahem Begin on linking Jordan with the occupied territories and calling for the end to Israeli settlements. Jerusalem radio said the Cabinet meeting on 2 September will reject the Reagan proposals because they do not adhere to the Camp David accords. The radio added that "high-level political sources" in Jerusalem asserted that President Reagan's statements indicate a "distorted" interpretation of the autonomy plan. They went on to say that Israel does not intend to discuss new proposals and that it will not alter plans for settlements in "Judaea, Samaria" and Gaza. At a meeting in Tel Aviv, cited by the radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed that Israel will never give up its territories and that the Reagan message was a "complete surprise" to the Israeli Government. Speaking at a ceremony in "Judaea," Deputy Prime Minister David Levi declared that Israel would never allow the establishment of a Palestinian state in "Judaea and Samaria," the radio said. Meanwhile, the Israeli ambassador to the United States insisted to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the United States does not have a plan for establishing a Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria," IDF radio reported; other committee members threatened that in reaction to the violation of the Camp David accords, Israel should apply its law in "Judaea and Samaria."

IDF radio revealed that Reagan sent another message to Begin later on 1 September asking Begin to present his ideas to the Cabinet in a "positive and serious way."

Meanwhile, Labor Party sources cited by Jerusalem television termed the U.S. message a "breakthrough" in finding a solution to the Palestinian problem.

MA'ARIV revealed that the six village leagues in "Judaea and Samaria" will be authorized to conduct talks with the Israeli civilian administration on establishing autonomy in the area. In another report, Jerusalem radio said the heads of the village leagues decided to form a federation with its main office in Ramallah.

Lebanon

PLO Evacuation Ends -- The last group of PLO fighters, numbering over 600, left Beirut port for Syria on 1 September, Beirut radio announced. Jerusalem radio alleged that with the departure of all the "terrorists," Beirut was quiet that evening for the first time in 3 months.

Weinberger Visit to Beirut -- Beirut radio reported that U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger met with senior Lebanese officials for talks described as having a "military character." After the talks President-elect Bashir al-Jumayyil told reporters he had respect for the United States and hoped the Lebanese Army would develop strong morale and dignity, the radio said.

On the future of Lebanon, Jerusalem radio said a close aide to Al-Jumayyil told an Israeli correspondent that Lebanon needs 5 years of dictatorship to reorganize the country.

Security Situation -- The Lebanese Interior Ministry issued a communique, carried by Beirut radio, calling for armed groups to stop their activities and withdraw. The radio said the Lebanese leftist Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun also issued a statement confirming that it will hand all its forward positions in Beirut over to the security forces.

Meanwhile, Damascus radio carried an announcement by a Syrian military spokesman admitting that a Syrian plane on a reconnaissance mission over Lebanon was shot down by a surface-to-air missile on 31 August.

'Arafat Remarks, PLO Future -- At a press conference given after his arrival in Greece, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the PLO will continue its struggle against Israel using "all means and methods," AFP reported. He strongly rejected the Israeli stand that Jordan is the home for Palestinians and ruled out the imminent formation of a PLO government-in-exile. In an interview with the French journal LIBERATION cited by KUNA, 'Arafat insisted that the PLO left Beirut with "military honors" and that he was not surprised by the lack of Arab countries' support. He denounced cooperation by the United States and UN forces with the Israelis and added that the Lebanese Army was of no help in resisting the invasion. The Fahd plan, 'Arafat commented, could be a good basis for peace in the Middle East.

Speaking in Damascus, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Nayif Hawatimah, announced that all Palestinian fighters who left Beirut are invited to assemble in Syria, Monte Carlo radio reported. He claimed this decision was made by the PLO command and that the main target of activity is the "occupied territories."

Inter-Arab Affairs

King Husayn in Jidda -- Jordan's King Husayn met with Saudi King Fahd in Jidda to discuss the upcoming Arab summit conference in Fes and current Arab issues, SPA reported. SPA said King Husayn left Saudi Arabia later on 1 September.

Al-Qadhdhafi Criticizes Arabs -- In a speech at a military parade in Tripoli celebrating the anniversary of the 1 September Revolution, Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted that no Arab government has any justification for remaining in power even 1 more day after the battle in Beirut. In the lengthy speech, carried by Tripoli radio, Al-Qadhdhafi attacked all Arab states except Syria for refusing to fight against the Israelis. On the other hand, he alleged that Libyan volunteers were the first to arrive in Lebanon and are still present with the Syrian forces in the Al-Biqa' Valley. He said only Libya offered all its resources to fight against the Israelis and that the "defeated" Arab spirit has caused nations to doubt their resources and capabilities. Israel, he warned, is a threat to all Arab states and has discovered that nothing in the Arab world can stop it from committing a "horrible death serial." As long as Israel exists, it threatens the Arabs. Therefore, he said, even a solution to the Palestinian problem would not mean peace. Al-Qadhdhafi accused the Arab regimes of "treason" against their peoples and singled out Morocco, Sudan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia for being the worst offenders. He accused Saudi Arabia of financing the U.S.-Israeli "arsenal" and challenged it and Egypt to act against the United States. Libyan revolutionary committees, he claimed, are the only hope left for confrontation.

Egypt

Cabinet Changes, Mubarak Comments -- On 31 August, the Egyptian prime minister announced a Cabinet reshuffle involving the departure of seven ministers -- mostly dealing with public affairs and economic issues -- and the appointment of five new ministers, MENA reported. Commenting on this Cabinet reshuffle at a 1 September press conference cited by MENA, President Husni Mubarak asserted that it was connected with economic problems and investments and that the changes will result in a "strong momentum." He went on to say that he will meet with U.S. President Reagan later this year and that Israeli Prime Minister Begin is also "welcome in Cairo whenever it suits him."

Detainees Released -- MENA reported that the interior minister announced the release of 272 detained persons held under the emergency law and that only 300 belonging to extremist groups remain in custody.

DAILY REPORT

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U.S., UK SUPPLYING CHEMICAL WEAPONS TO REBELS

LD011708 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Announcement by Ministry of National Defense]

[Text] During an operation by a team from the DRA Armed Forces on 25 August about 8 km from the city of Bamian in the region of the [name indistinct] village, rebels used poisonous combat substances of the CS gas type. It has been reported from the (?place) of the incident that the rebels threw a handgrenade into a house where the armed forces had taken position, the explosion of which produced a gas, the (?smoke) of which lasted from 1 and 1/2 to 2 minutes. The gas caused breathing difficulties among the military personnel and brought tears to their eyes and [word indistinct]. The effect of the gas lasted from 10-15 minutes.

At the site of the explosion, the metal part of the handgrenade -- 60 mm in diameter and 120 mm in length -- was recovered. In it two holes, one for the placement of the percussion cap system and the other for releasing the gas, can be seen.

On the body of the handgrenade writing in English can be clearly seen which reads: Made in England under the order of the United States. Instructions for the use of the chemical handgrenade were also briefly explained on the body.

This incident once again proves that imperialist countries, first and foremost the United States and Britain, continue to supply not only ordinary weapons but also chemical weapons to the counterrevolutionary organizations and the rebel bands, and they commit the most (?bestial) crimes against the people of our country.

WESTERN 'PROPAGANDA' ON PAGHMAN REBUTTED

AU311220 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 30 Aug 82 p 7

[CTK report: "Refuted Lie"]

[Text] Kabul, 29 Aug (CTK correspondent) -- In an interview with a CTK correspondent on Saturday, Afghan Interior Minister Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy said the situation in Paghman is tranquil because the town has been completely cleansed of bandits. He declared that Western propaganda about this important tourist center near Kabul are absolutely unsubstantiated, invented and lies.

A large meeting of the town's inhabitants and of the inhabitants of Kabul Province was held in Paghman on 19 August, marking the 63d anniversary of independence. Recently, Western information media spread false reports that the meeting was allegedly attacked by bandits, that many people were killed in fighting and that those injured in Paghman were in Kabul hospitals. "In Paghman there are no bandits," the minister said. "After all, the same evening thousands of Afghan television viewers were able to see for themselves that the rally in Paghman was dignified and tranquil, and was attended by a great number of the population."

EXPORT-IMPORT TRANSIT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

LD012212 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] A transit agreement for the export and import of commercial goods between the DRA and the USSR was signed this afternoon at the Ministry of Commerce. The agreement was signed by the deputy minister for ports and transit in the Ministry of Commerce, and the head of the Soviet Department of (?Transport) and Transit, and documents were exchanged.

Under the contract necessary facilities will be provided for the export and import of goods by the Soviet Union and for the transportation of export and import goods to our country.

ERSHAD: POLITICIANS MISLEAD DONOR COUNTRIES

BK011305 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Dacca, Sept. 1 (AFP) -- Bangladesh politicians were trying to mislead donor countries into withholding aid to the country, military ruler General Hussain Mohammad Ershad charged here in another attack on the civilian rulers whom he overthrew in a bloodless coup last March.

The government owned English daily OBSERVER quoted General Ershad as saying at a women cooperators' meeting in Dacca yesterday that his government would frustrate what he called the evil designs of some dishonest and disgruntled politicians.

These politicians, he said, were out to mislead the donor agencies including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), asking them to withhold their assistance to Bangladesh.

The 52-year-old general cautioned the people against what he called the dirty and foul tricks and tactics of some discredited politicians who had brought the country to the brink of a precipice over the last 12 years.

He charged that the politicians, whom he did not name, had fooled the people in the name of democracy, created anarchy and amassed wealth at home and abroad at the expense of colossal sufferings of the people.

General Ershad said that disgruntled political elements had now chosen to spread rumours detrimental to the society and had not hesitated to lobby abroad against the country's interests.

The chief martial law administrator, who had started touring the countryside explaining his government's policies and programmes said: "We are dutybound" to eliminate corruption, restore moral values and make the country self-reliant in order to build "a new Bangladesh." He said the government had undertaken a programme to decentralize the administration, bring about land reforms to raise food production, overhaul the education system and the judiciary to ensure quick dispensation of justice.

ORDINANCE ISSUED TO BAN STRIKES, LOCKOUTS

BK310753 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] Dacca, Aug. 31 (AFP) -- The military government of General Ershad has promulgated a new ordinance to "control trade union activities and maximise production in the greater national interest."

An official communique said under the "industrial relations control ordinance," all strikes and lockouts would be declared illegal and offenders punishable by two years of hard labour and a fine of taka 5,000.

The ordinance was promulgated shortly after journalists held a general meeting yesterday morning and decided to press for a cost-of-living allowance that was recently granted exclusively to government employees. To press home their demands the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists had called for a work stoppage on September 10 if their demand was not met.

The ordinance specified that trade unions would be barred from holding any meeting or election without prior government permission.

A summary of the ordinance released to the press late last night said no election of new bargaining agents would be allowed until further government orders. When terms of existing agents run out, the trade union registrar would appoint as new bargaining agents those unions that "enjoy the support of the majority of the workers."

The new ordinance also empowers the government to refer any labour dispute to labour courts for settlement.

GANDHI DEFENDS PRESS BILL, ATTACKS OPPOSITION

BK020509 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said that there is nothing in the Bihar press bill to gag the press.

Addressing a large gathering at Amethi in Uttar Pradesh today, Mrs Gandhi pointed out that Orissa and Tamil Nadu had adopted similar bills. The opposition did not raise any objection against them but now it is raising a hue and cry against the Bihar press bill. She maintained that freedom of the press does not mean freedom of character assassination. When newspapers indulge in this sort of activity the opposition do not condemn them. Such activities, Mrs Gandhi said, do not harm her but lower the prestige of the country.

Mrs Gandhi blamed the opposition for putting obstacles in the way of government's developmental program. She said the opposition does not like the progress which has been made possible by the efforts of the government.

Referring to the developments in the other countries, the prime minister said that every country is making efforts to preserve and maintain peace so that process of development can continue. She regretted that in our country certain elements are trying to incite communal tension. She said progress can only be made when there is peace and harmony in the country.

ONE MILLION MAROONED BY GANGES FLOODING

BK010414 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Floodwaters of the River Ganges has started entering low-lying areas of Patna city. Immediately effort to stop the flow into the city was started. Chief Minister Dr Jagannath Mishra personally supervised the measures. He directed the officials for constant vigil to (?save) the state capital from the flood threat. Now the Ganges is flowing 109 cm above the danger level at Gandhi Ghat in Patna.

The All-India Radio Patna correspondent reports that the Ganges started approaching the 1975 floodmark and the level is only 30 cm below the highest flood level at Gandhi Ghat in Patna. The situation might take an alarming turn in areas around the state capital if the river continues its present rising trend. Official reports say that the floodwaters of the swollen Ganges inundated vast areas in Bhojpur and Saran Districts of the state and the Ganges is rising all along its coast in the state.

In Orissa, while 58 breaches have occurred in the Mahandi and its tributaries in the Cuttack District, 18 breaches are reported in the rivers in Puri District. The All-India Radio Bhubaneshwar correspondent reports that about 1 million people in an area 1,700 square km have been marooned. Chief Minister J.B. Patnaik, who made an aerial survey, has said that 175,000 hectares of the irrigated areas have been submerged. Five air force helicopters yesterday air-dropped food packets and other essential articles. Navy boats are engaged in rescuing people in Puri District.

In Uttar Pradesh, the flood situation in the eastern districts has further worsened with more and more areas coming under the grip of flood. But the situation in Banda and Hamirpur has improved as the water started receding. Several areas in Varanasi town are still under water. A contingent of the provincial armed constabulary has been sent to Farrukhabad to help relief work. All-India Radio Lucknow correspondent reports that 32 districts have now been affected. The death toll has risen to 48; 430 flood posts and 171 relief centers have been set up.

SAKURAUCHI ENDS VISIT; NEWS CONFERENCE REPORTED

BK0208034 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi has described his visit to Pakistan as successful and said that the visit gave him a chance to better understand the problems faced by Pakistan.

He was addressing a news conference at Islamabad airport this morning prior to his departure for Europe, ending his visit to Pakistan. He said that during his stay in Pakistan he held useful talks with President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan. He said that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has posed a danger to the security of Pakistan and it is faced with difficulties due to large-scale influx of Afghan refugees. He said that he himself assessed the condition of Afghan refugees at a camp near Peshawar.

In reply to a question he said that the Government of Japan is strongly opposed to the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan and it demands early withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Japan has also been extending support to this stand at the United Nations and other international organizations. He said that a peaceful solution of this issue should be sought.

JAPAN TO PROVIDE $111 MILLION IN LOANS, GRANT

BK0106035 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] Japan is to give loan assistance and a cultural grant to Pakistan this fiscal year worth over $111 million. The money includes a commodity loan of over $40 million enabling Pakistan to buy any commodity from almost any source. Over $70 million have been provided for three development projects. These include the setting up of a factory of the Pakistan railways near Naushera for the progressive manufacture of diesel electric locomotives, the establishment of the second earth satellite station and the second international gateway exchange at Islamabad and the provision of additional radio frequency channels network from Karachi to Islamabad.

A cultural grant of $118,000 has also been extended to Pakistan for the setting up of a Japanese language laboratory system at the national institute of modern languages at Islamabad.

Notes to this effect were exchanged in Islamabad today between the Japanese ambassador to Pakistan and the secretary, economic affairs division. Also present at the signing ceremony were Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan and visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi and the members of their delegation.

BRIEFS

PRC INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION -- A seven-member Chinese industrial delegation arrived in Karachi from Beijing on 26 August on a 2-week official visit to Pakistan. During their visit, undertaken at the invitation of Pakistan, the members of the Chinese delegation will assess further possibilities of expanding bilateral cooperation in the industrial field. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Aug 82 BK]

AID FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES -- The UN High Commission for Refugees has provided over $234 million in aid for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan till the end of June this year. The amount does not include the food aid provided for the refugees by the World Food Program. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 25 Aug 82 BK]

MUSAVI PROMISES 'REVELATIONS' AT FES SUMMIT

GF011725 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sep 1, IRNA -- In the meeting of the Cabinet ministers this morning, Prime Minister Musavi talked about the recent order of Imam Khomeyni concerning abolishment of all laws contradicting Islamic principles. The prime minister called on the ministers to take the necessary measures for implementation of the order of the imam.

The latest developments of the country and issues related to the 23 month old Iraqi imposed war were also discussed in the six-hour meeting of the Cabinet ministers.

Interviewed by an IRNA correspondent after the meeting, Prime Minister Musavi, commenting on the forthcoming conference of Arab leaders scheduled to meet in Fes, Morocco, next week, and inclusion of Fahd's peace proposal in the agenda of the conference, said that the Islamic Republic would make revelations in this connection. Because of the Muslim masses' reliance on the Islamic revolution there is no doubt that these revelations would awaken the Muslim people and will keep the Palestinian cause alive. The concern of the Muslim people of the world over the issue of Palestine, Musavi stressed, would ultimately result in destruction of the Zionist regime.

ARDABILI ON FORMATION OF COUNCIL OF EXPERTS

GF011534 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Aug 82 p 5

[Report on "exclusive" interview with President of the Supreme Court Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili by KEYHAN correspondent -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, the president of the Supreme Court, said: The election for the Council of Experts will be held with the permission of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni to select a leader or a leadership council. He also said: In a revolution or struggle the leader is either accepted by the "nation" because of his qualities and personality or, under other circumstances, because it becomes necessary to select him.

Referring to Iran's conditions in the present circumstances, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said: The Iranian position on the war is no different now than it was in the past. Iran has been subjected to aggression and is defending itself. At present it is on the defensive and our conditions have not changed. Iran neither wants water nor land from anyone, nor has it any wish to destroy international borders.

Referring to the shortage of personnel in the judiciary, he expressed hope that following the approval of bills offered to the Majlis, shortages in various departments can be alleviated by the use of shar' magistrates who are duly qualified.

At the beginning of this interview, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, referring to the matter of formation of a Council of Experts, changes in the Constitution, the method of the selection of a leadership council or the matter of solving the question of the leadership said:

The issue of leadership or a leadership council was discussed in the Council of Experts formed to approve the Constitution. Naturally, for the continuation of the issue of theocratic rule, there must be a leader who controls the administrative, judicial and executive powers and who has special duties outlined in the Constitution.

Let us see how a leader is recognized. A leader can be selected in two ways. During a revolution or a struggle a leader shows his qualities to the people and becomes accepted by the "nation."

In such conditions, he has not been appointed; he automatically becomes the leader. An example of this is the leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

However, a leader who holds the position of theocratic ruler does not always become one in this manner. Under other circumstances, he should be selected, and at such times the Council of Experts is charged with this duty. Preliminary plans have been drawn up in this connection which have been looked at by his holiness the imam, who has stated his opinion on them.

The present plan is based on the preliminary plan and has been changed to a great degree. For example, in the preliminary plan the Council of Experts had 280 members -- equal to the number of Majlis deputies -- but in the present plan the number has been reduced to 70. There are other changes too.

On the timing of the election of these experts, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said: The elections are conducted following permission from the imam. There was talk of holding them at the same time as the midterm Majlis elections, but so far as I am aware, this has not gone any further. Elections will certainly take place as soon as the imam gives his permission. As far as the leader or a leadership council is concerned, we will have to wait and see if the experts who meet will select one or three people as the leaders. This is not yet clear and may be left to the experts themselves. They may choose one person as the leader or may vote for a leadership council if they consider it a better alternative.

With respect to changes and amendments to the Constitution, the president of the Supreme Court said: This is a natural thing. When a law is written and put into use, it may encounter some difficultires after a while. If these are not solved, it becomes necessary to change it and issue an amendment. It becomes necessary to review the Constitution. Such changes are a heavy burden since a great deal of effort was put into preparing the Constitution. First, there were drafts and then all those with an opinion were asked for their views. Then, when the Council of Experts was formed, its opinion was asked. Finally there was a referendum. Now, if one or a number of articles of the Constitution are to be changed, the same procedure should be followed.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, on the subject of the nonaligned conference and its future, said: When we look at the history of the Nonaligned Movement, we observe interesting and uninteresting work in various eras.

We know that Iraq is not a nonaligned country and has connections with both blocs, and had the Nonaligned Movement held its meeting there on the pretense that Iraq is nonaligned, then it would have damaged its honor in the world.

On the subject of the war and the present Iranian conditions, the president of the Supreme Court announced that the Iranian position on the war has not changed. Iran is a country that has been invaded. When a human being or a living nation is invaded it defends itself. Iran defended itself. It is still defending itself. We are on the defensive and it is Iraq that is the aggressor. However, this aggression has many facets. On some occasions its army invades us, comes as far as Dezful and goes around destroying our land under its boots. Even now Iraq is the aggressor, despite its withdrawal from some of the positions it occupied. We have to add that contrary to all its claims, Iraq is still occupying parts of Iran. When Iraq realized that it could not achieve anything with all the murder, aggression and plunder and in fact is suffering, it decided to quietly withdraw and assume a peaceable face. Iran has always said one thing and its conditions, such as withdrawal of the enemy, reparations, return of the expelled Iraqis and...have not changed. [sentence as published] The aggressor has to be condemned in the international circles. Iran wants nobody's soil or water nor does it want to encroach on anyone's borders or ignore recognized international borders. It does not want to meddle in anyone else's affairs. If the Iranian revolution has a message, others should see and recognize that they have to be independent, put slavery aside and not bow to force.

KHAMENE'I, SUNNI CLERGYMEN DISCUSS 'DIFFICULTIES'

LD011810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Friday imam of Paveh, (Mulla Qader Qaderi), accompanied by a group of Sunni clergy from the Owraman, Nowsud and Paveh regions, met and conferred with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this morning.

During this meeting, the Friday imam of Paveh, referring to the role of the caring and ever-present clergy of these regions, stated: The difficulties we are facing today have resulted from the imperial culture, but enemies of Islam are trying to attribute these difficulties to the Islamic Republic. In conclusion, the Friday imam of Paveh presented a detailed report on the political, social and economic situation of those regions and informed the president of the regions' difficulties and needs.

Mr Khamene'i then made some remarks. Referring to the country's difficulties and stressing that these difficulties are not limited to one particular region, the president said: These difficulties have arisen from the war, economic sanctions and above all from the situation before the revolution. Naturally, it takes time to overcome these difficulties; problems can be solved in the long term.

Referring to the need for mutual trust between the people and the clergy on the one hand and the government authorities on the other, the president said: If they do not trust one another, no progress can be made. Today the government and the existing system can hold their heads high before Almighty God; we hope that they can do the same before the people. At the head of our revolution, we have an example and an Islam whose instructions guide us in all areas. The officials serving this revolution are highly qualified individuals in Islamic and popular teachings and know their shari'a [Islamic law] duties well.

Mr Khamene'i added: We would like to make use of all popular forces and utilize their potentials. We would like to know their opinions and we feel dutybound to investigate various problems and strive to overcome the country's difficulties.

Referring to the fact that some people intend to create discord between the Shi'ites and Sunnis, Mr Khamene'i said: You must make the people realize that those who intend to hoist the flag of discord under the garb of Sunnism are not in fact sympathizers of the Sunni faith. Rather, they are resorting to these last-ditch efforts for political aims.

KHO'INI, MAJLIS DEPUTIES DEPART FOR JIDDA

GF011720 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran Sept 1 IRNA -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'ini, the imam's representative and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims to Mecca, left for Jidda, Saudi Arabia, today, leading a delegation comprising a group of Majlis deputies. He is to study the welfare and other problems of the Iranian pilgrims there.

Foreign Minister Velayati, along with Foreign Ministry's deputies, the Saudi's charge d'affaires to Iran, Marwan Bashir ar-Rumi, and a group of Iranian officials saw the delegation off at Tehran airport.

Before his departure, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'ini said his delegation would be the messenger of the Iranian Muslim nation to this great international hajj congress.

VELAYATI COMMENTS ON POLITICAL NATURE OF HAJJ

LD011834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati -- date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] [Correspondent] With the departure of the Iranian pilgrims to the house of God, could you tell us what active political role these pilgrims can play as the ambassadors of the Islamic Republic? Second, what facilities has the Government of Saudi Arabia provided for this year's pilgrims?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. After the Islamic revolution in Iran, with the imam's guidance, our nation, God willing, will move toward reviving the political dimension of the hajj.

Regarding the Government of Saudi Arabia and the facilities that are to be provided for the pilgrims, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have had long talks with the Saudi officials, and they have promised all sorts of cooperation. We hope they will provide the necessary facilities for the Iranian pilgrims and that they will also cooperate with the honorable supervisor of pilgrim affairs, His Excellency Musavi-Kho'ini. We also hope that, God willing, this year no problem will crop up in the proper holding of the great religious duty of the hajj. [end recording]

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR IMF TALKS IN CANADA

LD011152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Economy and Finance Minister Namazi left Iran this morning for Canada to take part in the IMF session. He is heading an economic delegation comprising experts of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Foreign Ministry and the Central Bank.

In an interview given to IRNA after [as heard] his departure, the economy and finance minister said: The IMF is an organization similar to other organizations: an organization which the superpowers and Western colonialists try to exploit in line with their own interests. These governments had a major role from the very beginning in setting up this fund.

He added: The purpose of our taking part in the session in Toronto, Canada, is to study economic issues and to acquaint the members with the roots of these issues. Moreover, we shall also try to throw light on the actual facts governing the fund. Namazi then said: The Iranian delegation to the session will insist on and demand that the facilities enjoyed by the fund be made available to the oppressed nations rather than be used as a tool in the hands of the existing powers.

Concluding his remarks, he said: Obviously this will not be achieved by one speech or a single participation in the session. However, the delegation's task is to clarify facts and persist in the implementation of these points.

ASIAN BARTER UNION GROUP TO DISCUSS OIL TRADE

LD281128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Aug 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, this week a delegation of Asian experts in Tehran will study the issue of utilizing Iranian oil for strengthening the Asian barter trade union. In an interview given to a Central News Unit correspondent, Mr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, governor of the Central Bank of Iran, who is representing our country in this commercial union, said: During the next 3 days the Asian experts will arrive in Tehran and together with the Petroleum Ministry and the Central Bank of Iran's experts will study the issue of that union utilizing our country's oil.

According to the same report, the Asian barter union comprises the seven countries of Iran, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Burma. These countries exchanged a specific number of their commodities on a barter basis, without making payments in dollars or in any other currency, using the union's internal currencies in their payments for such commodities.

In the previous session of the union certain countries called on Iran to allow them to purchase the oil they need from Iran within the context of the union's barter exchanges and the investigation of this issue has been entrusted to the technical committee due to meet in Tehran this week.

The governor of the Central Bank of Iran, who recently visited Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore and talked with the governors of the said countries' central banks for the purpose of implementing the resolutions of the members of this union with regard to encouraging Asian countries to join the seven member countries of the Asian barter union, told the Central News Unit correspondent: These countries, which are members of the ASEAN economic, technical and political union, are to raise this issue in the ASEAN union before making a decision on whether to join the Asian barter union.

GHARAZI: GOVERNMENT NOT INTERESTED IN OIL BARTER

LD011224 Vienna OPECNA in English 0712 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, 31 Aug 82 (OPECNA) -- Iran hopes to build an economy based on oil production of no more than one million barrels a day, Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi said here.

He told a news conference that the country's main objective was to establish an economic system "to stand on its own feet" without dependence on oil.

Gharazi, who has just returned from a 15-day tour of 12 African countries, said Iran was not interested in the oil barter trade. "Under the present circumstances, the Islamic Republic neither believes in this type of transaction nor is interested in it," he remarked.

He referred to the joint Iran-India refinery project in Madras which produces 50,000 b/d and described it as a satisfactory joint investment."

Gharazi said 50,000 more households in Iran would be provided with natural gas this year.

ROMANIA SEEKING PURCHASE OF IRANIAN OIL

LD301306 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug 29, IRNA -- The Romanian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. N. Stefan, met and conferred with the state minister and head of the Plan and Budget Organisation, Dr. Mohammad Taqi Banki, here this afternoon.

In the meeting, the Romanian ambassador submitted a report to Dr. Banki concerning the system of repaying the debts of his country to the Islamic Republic and he also asked Iran to sell oil to Romania on a cash basis.

The Romanian ambassador then extended his invitation to the Iranian Government officials to visit his country.

In response, Dr. Banki criticized the recent position of Romania in accordance with the regional issues and said Iran would possibly study the sale of oil to Romania.

TURKISH GOVERNMENT READY FOR TRADE RELATIONS

GF301853 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Ankara, Aug 30 (IRNA) -- The Turkish Government has voiced readiness to sell Iran various goods including spare parts of industrial machinery, trucks, chemicals, plastic materials, fabrics, medicine, electrical equipment, powdered milk, etc, the Turkish daily MILLIYET reported in its latest issue here.

Meanwhile, the Ankara Commerce Chamber has announced that it will sell Iran sugar this year.

TEHRAN ASSAILS U.S. PRO-IRAQ 'PROPAGANDA'

LD011050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0750 GMT 1 Sep 82

[From the "Islamic Revolution Guards" program; unattributed commentary]

[Text] Although the biggest American crime in Lebanon is still underway and although the Zionist media is preparing the ground for Israel's expansionism by giving top priority to these issues within the context of international developments, nevertheless the truth of the matter is that every single effort made by imperialism with regard to the Islamic revolution, particularly with regard to the Iraqi-imposed war and the Zionist Saddam, takes place within the context of these two issues.

In this connection and parallel with the Zionists' crimes in Lebanon, several other issues are being pursued by Islam's global enemy which should be borne in mind. One of these issues, which has been given particular prominence and which is being pursued by the imperialist media and by Western diplomats following repeated defeats by Saddam's forces and the subsequent arrival of the Islamic forces on Iraqi territory, is the U.S.-fabricated lie concerning the threat posed to the region by the Islamic Republic. The United States' objective in spreading such false propaganda is to make use of the forces of its vassal states against the Islamic Republic at a time when the Iraqi troops are considered to have been crushed, both morally and in terms of personnel.

As for the reactionary regimes of the region, considering that they have no excuse to take any action against the Islamic revolution, they too are feeding their people with the U.S.-fabricated propaganda -- namely, the so-called threat posed by the Islamic Republic. This is aimed at whipping up public opinion and applying pressure on Iran, in case they fail to take action against the Islamic Republic to make it abandon its objective -- that is, toppling the criminal Saddam regime.

Another tactic most strongly pursued by international Zionism is to fan the flame of differences between the Sunnis and Shi'ites. Needless to say, the valuable unity between these two in Iran has made the enemy unable to continue this action. However, because the fall of the Iraqi regime will externalize this domestic issue, and because in order to topple the Satanic system of [word indistinct] the entire Islamic world will have to unite, the United States is trying to exploit these differences in the Islamic world. Therefore, we must endeavor to foil this plot at the international level.

To cite an example: Zionist propaganda keeps harping upon the Shi'ite minority in Iraq, claiming that even this minority has not risen to topple Saddam. However, the idea which they are trying to convey -- that our Sunni brethren in Iraq agree with the criminal, anti-Islamic Saddam -- is a flagrant lie. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic believes that not only the Shi'ites but all the Muslim Iraqi people have risen and are in the process of forming an Islamic government in their country because, despite the denials by U.S. news agencies, the uprising of the Muslim Iraqi nation is gaining momentum daily. This claim is borne out by the blowing up of the Iraqi Interior Ministry building and the revolutionary execution of mercenaries of Iraq's criminal security organization.

Another plot hatched by America to prevent Saddam's fall is its widespread propaganda about Saddam's so-called power. By means of this propaganda America is trying to hide Saddam's weakness and total decline from world public opinion and so make the Islamic Republic of Iran exercise caution in attacking and obtaining its rights from this criminal regime, so that the protectors of this regime can resume strengthening it at an opportune time.

However, the triumphant arrival of the Islamic army on Iraqi territory demonstrated the baselessness of this propaganda and showed that all the claims made by foreign news agencies about the so-called resistance of the Iraqi troops is only intended to encourage and keep in power a moribund lackey.

Second, the valiant Islamic fighters will in the near future show the world once again how they are going to bring the Iraqi regime to its knees, despite all the military aid by the tyrannical world; they will show how they are going to give thanksgiving and victory prayers in Karbala'.

We invite the Zionists and imperialists to await a deathly end.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,034

LD011746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1650 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Communique No 1,034 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. In the past 24 hours the resistive and brave heroes of Islam opened mortar and heavy-artillery fire on the positions, fortifications, personnel and armor of the Saddamists, inflicting losses and casualties on them.

Yesterday, in the western operational area, the artillery units of the Iranian Ground Forces opened fire on the enemy positions in Zurbatiyah in Iraq, destroyed the largest Iraqi supply point on the western axis of this region and set fire to a large part of the enemy's installations and military equipment and one large ammunition dump.

On 30 August one Iraqi helicopter was hit by our fire in one of the western border areas and crashed inside Iraqi territory.

Patrol operations and clearing crossings of minefields are continuing on all the fronts and western axes.

In the southern operational areas of the country, our victorious heroes defended their positions and areas, returned the enemy's fire and stopped the movements and activities of the Saddamist forces. Opening artillery and heavy-weapon fire on the enemy's supply route in the Al-Faw area, they disrupted its traffic and movements.

Yesterday the heroes of the gendarmerie opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud. As a result, 20 slit trenches and foxholes, one mortar and one construction vehicle were destroyed and several Iraqis were killed or wounded.

Yesterday enemy mortars set fire to five areas in the city of Abadan.

Yesterday the vigilant personnel of the air defense units foiled the intrusion of enemy aircraft over the southern and western border cities of the country and forced them to leave the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

WARNING ISSUED TO HORMOZGAN DRAFT EVADERS

GF011611 Bandar-e 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Statement issued by the deputy governor general for executive and political affairs of Hormozgan on behalf of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran -- date not given]

[Text] Since according to the decrees of the imam of the nation military service is considered worship in Islam and participation in realizing the holy hope of the oppressed of the world under the prophet-like leadership of the imam of the nation, following the victory of the glorious Islamic revolution, the majority of the faithful brothers adherent to the revolution welcomed their military service and in willing sacrifice announced their readiness to join their brother soldiers in carrying out this patriotic and religious duty.

However, a number of draftees ignored the rules and regulations of national conscription and the interests of the Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation of Iran and have evaded the draft. Under such conditions and due to the imposed war, they are hereby strongly warned that if they do not contact the conscription departments at the first opportunity, they will remain unforgiven until death by the zealous and revolutionary Iranian nation and their reward will be punishment for being absent during the war.

It should be added that absent draftees are considered conscripts until they are 45 years old and cannot work under anycircumstances. Nor can they leave the country. They also will lose a large number of social benefits. All employers who employ such individuals will be prosecuted according to Article 64 of the law. In addition, all offices, revolutionary and popular organizations are asked to seriously avoid doing anything for the draft evaders as much as possible.

COMMUNIST GROUP MEMBERS ARRESTED IN KHUZESTAN

LD301148 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Ahvaz, Aug 29, IRNA -- With the constant efforts of the Islamic revolutionary prosecutor's office of Khuzestan Province, and the help of the Muslim people here, some 183 members and activists of the "Iranian Communist Union" were arrested in the province.

Contacted by IRNA, a source at the prosecutors' office here said that following the arrests, several munitions depots belonging to the group had been discovered and 98 percent of the group's organisation had been destroyed.

This source added that "tens" of RPG-7s, Kalashnikovs, G-3 machineguns, and "hundreds" of pistols along with "900 grenades", handmade bombs, "tens of thousands" of ammunition rounds, large numbers of wireless equipment, dynamite, TNT, tens of printing machines and group documents were among the items discovered in the group's safehouses and depots in Khuzestan.

Most of the members of the "Iranian Communist Union", the source said, were from the wealthy class, and had previously been in the United States.

The source at the Islamic revolutionary prosecutors' office said that most of the arrested members had expressed regret of their past activities.

QOTBZADEH TRIAL OVER; TRIAL OF OTHERS CONTINUES

LD012128 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Tehran, Sept 1 IRNA -- The trial of two other co-conspirators of Sadeq Qotbzadeh, Hoseyn (Shaveisi), and (Darab Foruzan), commenced here this morning.

The trial is presided over by the religious judge and head of the Revolutionary Court of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reyshahri.

The two convicts are being tried on charges of subversive activities and conspiring to martyr Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The trials of Qotbzadeh, the former foreign minister who headed this coup plot, and four other convicts of this group have ended. The trial of (Shaveisi) and (Foruzan) is being continued. The court has yet to announce a verdict in any of the trials.

COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS HOLDS SESSION 31 AUGUST

GF311950 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug 31, IRNA -- The Guardian Council of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran held an extraordinary session this morning. In this session the members of the council continued their discussion over bills proposed by the Supreme Judicial Council.

Ever since Imam Khomeyni's recent call for the abolishment of all un-Islamic laws in the country, the Guardian Council has stepped up its efforts to study bills prepared by the Supreme Judicial Council in order to fully replace old laws with those in accordance with Islam, as soon as possible.

CLANDESTINE REPORTS BAN ON LABOR SYNDICATES

GF312104 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] The mullah regime in Tehran has banned the activities of the executive committees of nine labor syndicates in Tehran. Unrest has been reported for some time within the labor groups and the classes that Khomeyni once blessed as the oppressed ones, and promised paradise and total welfare. These very people now seem to have been abandoned by the regime. This is because open talk against the regime and the plundering by the clergymen has been heard for some time among labor groups. By banning the syndicates, the regime has sounded the first warning bell.

After the clouting of the nationalists, the intellectuals and the women, one should in fact expect a route of the oppressed ones at the hands of the lying, cheating and murderous regime in Tehran.

BRIEFS

TV RELAY STATIONS REPLACED -- According to the Central News Unit, the operations for replacing the (?Golshahrak) relay station and the Bafq relay station have been completed, thanks to the efforts of the expansion unit of the network of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to overcome the existing shortcomings in the TV reception in the Bafq and (?Mehriz) areas and also to prepare the grounds for the installation of the [names indistinct] TV relay stations. With the completion of these operations, the inhabitants of (?Mehriz) and [name indistinct] will be able to receive the programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 11 and those of Bafq on Channel 5 without difficulty. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 1 Sep 82 LD]